

shorter; the bill, on the contrary, is rather longer (in the male and young male of *H. clarissæ* the wing measures $2\frac{1}{2}$ "', the bill $7\frac{1}{2}$ "'); the colour of the throat is darker in the female of *H. clarissæ*, and the metallic spot more bluish violet*.

From *H. strophianus*, Gould, the bird here described differs in its inferior dimensions, considerably longer bill, and tail not emarginate, but somewhat rounded: the uropygium is not brownish. It is distinguished from *H. spencii* by its somewhat superior size and by the want of the silver-green spot on the front; the metallic colour has not a faint, but an extremely vivid gloss.

I have named this species after Mr. L. Taczanowski, the eminent ornithologist of Warsaw.

XXIX.—*Additional Notes on the Ornithology of the Republic of Transvaal.* By THOMAS AYRES. Communicated by JOHN HENRY GURNEY.

(Plate VII.)

[It will be seen by a reference to 'The Ibis' for 1876, p. 433, that Mr. Ayres has already recorded 192 species of birds as observed by him in the Republic of Transvaal; the additional species contained in the following list are numbered consecutively with the above, and have all been identified by me from specimens sent over by Mr. Ayres, except where the contrary is stated.—J. H. G.]

193. *CIRCUS CINERACEUS* (Mont.). Montagu's Harrier.

Circus pygargus (Sharpe's Layard, p. 12).

I found these Harriers very plentiful on my brother's farm, about fifteen miles from Potchefstroom, where they were hunting a large plot of ground from which the grass had been lately burnt, no doubt for insects or lizards killed by the fire; one of these Harriers which I opened had made a good meal of some Lark's eggs, shell and all.

* I have no females of *H. clarissæ* for comparison, and must therefore rely on Mr. Gould's representation in the 'Monograph of Trochilidæ,' and Mulsant's dissertation (Hist. Nat. Ois. Mouch. iii. 86).

SCELOSPIZIAS POLYZONOIDES (Smith). Smith's Many-banded Hawk.

The stomach of one of the specimens sent contained the remains of mice.

MELIERAX MUSICUS (Daud.). Chanting Hawk.

There is no doubt that these birds catch and devour hares ; for a neighbour of mine brought me one of these Hawks which he shot on 3rd October in the act, and I found its stomach crammed with the flesh, and the claws covered with the fur of the hare.

They generally seem to keep to the low rocky ridges a few miles from Potchefstroom.

194. BUTEO JAKAL (Daud.). Jackal Buzzard.

One that I opened contained the remains of a Snipe, no doubt a wounded bird that he had picked up easily, another a large toad.

[Five specimens sent were all immature.—J. H. G.]

195. BUTEO DESERTORUM (Daud.). Desert-Buzzard.

[One specimen sent, an adult female shot on 24th April.—J. H. G.]

196. GYPOHIERAX ANGOLENSIS (Gmel.). Vulturine Sea-Eagle.

The specimen sent is the only one that has come under my notice ; it was shot on a willow tree in the town of Potchefstroom ; the stomach was quite empty.

[This specimen is in immature plumage. I believe that this species has never before been recorded from so southern a locality.—J. H. G.]

HALIAETUS VOCIFER (Daud.). Vociferous Sea-Eagle.

This Eagle only makes its appearance in this part of the country occasionally, and then invariably feeds on carrion, such as dead oxen or horses, though there are plenty of fish in the Vaal river, which I should fancy it might very easily live upon if it had the inclination to do so.

CIRCAËTUS PECTORALIS, Smith. Black-crested Harrier Eagle.

One of the specimens sent contained a large toad, swallowed whole.

FALCO BIARMICUS, Temm. South-African Lanner.

This Falcon breeds in the Lydenberg district in June and July. My brother has two young ones now (October) nearly full-fledged and able to fly; they are exceedingly tame and intelligent, and certainly might be very easily trained to capture game for their owner.

ERYTHROPUS AMURENSIS (Radde). Eastern Red-footed Hobby.

[Mr. Ayres forwards three specimens of this Falcon, all obtained in the neighbourhood of Potchefstroom, and all males—two adults and one immature: one of the former is labelled as shot 29th January, the others have no dates attached to them. The males of this species are certainly more often sent to this country from South Africa than the females, which looks as if the latter less frequently extended their migrations to the southern part of the African continent than the males.—J. H. G.]

197. *TINNUNCULUS RUPICOLA* (Daud.). Lesser South-African Kestrel.

This Kestrel has been rather more plentiful in this district the last season or two than formerly; possibly the mice have increased.

SCOPS LEUCOTIS (Temm.). White-faced Scops Owl.

I met with four of these Owls last winter, and got three of them: the stomach of one was well filled with the remains of mice; the others were empty. They are decidedly scarce here, and, I rather think, leave the neighbourhood in the summer.

CAPRIMULGUS RUFIGENA. Rufous-cheeked Goatsucker.

One specimen sent, sex not ascertained, shot 20th November.

[Mr. Sharpe, in his article on this species, in the second SER. IV.—VOL. I.

edition of Mr. Layard's work, says, "Four primaries are always spotted with white;" but in the present specimen only the first three primaries show a white spot, the corresponding spot on the fourth being a rufous buff; the pale tips to the two external rectrices are also not white, but pale buff, with fine mottlings of dark brown.—J. H. G.]

198. EURYSTOMUS AFER (Lath.). Cinnamon Roller.

This Roller my brother shot on his farm, where it was observed for some days, among the mimosa trees, before he killed it; it was solitary, and is the only one of the kind that we have seen.

Male shot 26th November: bill yellow; irides, tarsi, and feet brown.

[I believe this to be the most southerly occurrence of this Roller which has yet been recorded.—J. H. G.]

199. CUCULUS CANORUS, Linn. European Cuckoo.

Male in change, shot 27th December 1875, at which time this species was exceedingly plentiful on my brother's farm, though the birds were shy and difficult to approach. Their flight was rapid; they were all amongst the mimosa trees.

[The specimen sent was changing from the ordinary nestling plumage to the adult dress, apparently without passing through the intermediate hepatic phase which is incident to some individuals of this species.—J. H. G.]

COCCYSTES JACOBINUS (Bodd.). Black-and-white Cuckoo.

These birds are summer visitors; I saw the first this year at the end of September.

200. POGONORHYNCHUS LEUCOMELAS (Bodd.). Pied Barbet.

This species is not uncommon amongst the low trees and scrub on the ranges in this neighbourhood, where its note soon attracts the collector's attention.

201. DENDROPICUS HARTLAUBI, Malh. Hartlaub's Woodpecker.

Male. Iris rose-colour; bill bluish horn; tarsi and feet dark bottle-green. Total length $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches, bill $\frac{1\frac{1}{2}}{16}$, wing $3\frac{3}{4}$, tail 2, tarsus $\frac{1\frac{1}{2}}{16}$.

This Woodpecker frequents the same localities as the Pied Barbet, but is less plentiful than that species.

TURDUS LETSITSIRUPA (Smith). Ground-scraper Thrush.

This Thrush is not uncommon amongst the mimosas.

202. *SAXICOLA GALTONI* (Strickland). Familiar Chat.

The specimen sent was killed on a farm about fifteen miles from Potchefstroom.

203. *SAXICOLA TEPHRONOTA*, n. sp. Ash-backed Wheatear.

A single specimen sent, which was shot on the low rocky ranges three miles from Potchefstroom; very few are to be found in this locality; sex not ascertained.

[I am not able to identify this Wheatear with any species hitherto described; and I therefore suggest for it the specific name of *tephronota*, which is in keeping with its ashy grey back. The following is a description of this specimen :—

Dimensions taken from the skin—total length 7·4 inches, culmen 0·8, wing from carpal joint 4·6, tail 2·6, tarsus 1·3.

The crown of the head is brownish grey, but shows a single dirty white feather, which differs from the adjoining plumage; the entire mantle, except the wing-coverts, clear pale bluish ash-grey; the lesser wing-coverts pure white; but some of the external feathers of these coverts have a black shaft-mark, and are tinged with slaty; the remaining coverts are black, more or less broadly edged with grey on the external web, but with one feather at the edge of the wing black, and immediately below this a small white spot; the quill-feathers of the wing dull black, very narrowly edged and tipped with grey, which is most conspicuous on the tertials; rump white; upper tail-coverts white, tipped with slaty; tail with the four central feathers wholly black, the two external pairs of rectrices entirely white; of the intermediate pair one feather is quite white, but the corresponding feather is slightly tinged with blackish grey on both webs towards the tip and for the last three quarters of an inch of its length, this tinge becoming stronger as it approaches the tip of the feather, which is white elsewhere.

The entire plumage of the underparts (other than the tail)

is grey, dark at the base of the feathers, but pale, and slightly tinged with brown, towards the tips; there is, however, one white feather visible on the throat; the bill, tarsi, and feet are black.

Mr. Sharpe, at page 250 of his new edition of Mr. Layard's 'Birds of South Africa,' under the head of *Saxicola anderssoni*, has the following remark:—"The British Museum also possesses a pair of wholly grey birds (males), killed at Koy's Fountain* on the 18th and 21st June, 1862, and marked by Mr. Andersson as the young of this species." Mr. Sharpe has been good enough to compare the present specimen (which has been added to the collection of the British Museum) with the two examples from Koy's Fountain, above referred to, and agrees with me in considering that the three belong to the same species, and that this is distinct from *S. anderssoni*, and has not previously been described.

Both the Namaqua specimens, however, are of a somewhat darker grey on the mantle than the one obtained by Mr. Ayres, and especially so about the lower part of the back; one of the Koy's-Fountain birds has also more conspicuous black shaft-marks visible amongst the white feathers of the lesser wing-coverts than is the case with the Transvaal bird; it has also the following coloration of the tail: on one side the two outer rectrices are pure white, whilst the corresponding pair on the other side of the tail are black and white; of these the exterior feather is white, with the tip and the terminal half of the outer web black, the four central feathers entirely black, and the intermediate rectrices also black, but with the extreme base and the basal half of the inner web white. The other Namaqua specimen has the lesser wing-coverts greyish white, instead of pure white, and with some black feathers intermixed; the tail of this example has on one side the outermost feather pure white, and the next feather white with the terminal third black on both webs; on the other side of the tail the outermost feather is black, with the basal half white, while the next feather is entirely white; the four central rectrices are entirely black, and the

* Great Namaqua Land.

intermediate ones black, with two thirds of the outer webs white.—J. H. G.]

204. *STENOSTIRA SCITA* (Vieill.). Mignard Flycatcher.

Stenostira longipes (Swains.).

This is a very scarce bird here; but a pair are very occasionally to be seen in winter, busily hunting for insects in the rose-hedges; like most of the smaller Flycatchers, they are exceedingly restless in their habits.

205. *BRADYORNIS SILENS* (Shaw). Silent Flycatcher.

Total length 7 inches, bill from gape $\frac{1}{16}$ ³, ditto from forehead $\frac{1}{2}$, wing $4\frac{11}{16}$, tail $3\frac{1}{4}$, tarsus 1. Sex uncertain; shot 20th June; irides dusky hazel; bill, tarsi, and feet black. This is also a winter visitant, appearing either singly or in pairs.

206. *DICRURUS MUSICUS*, Vieill. Musical Drongo.

The specimen sent is the only one I ever met with about here; it was observed about a garden for many days before it was killed.

[This specimen is remarkable for the presence of one pure white feather on the crown of the head; the abdomen and wing-linings are also slightly spotted with white.—J. H. G.]

207. *CORVUS CAPENSIS*, Licht. South-African Rook.

[One specimen sent.—J. H. G.]

HYPHANTORNIS MARIQUENSIS (Smith). Mariqua Weaver-bird.

These birds eat meat when they can get it; I saw them feeding on a lump of buck which was hanging up under my verandah.

ALAUDA CONIROSTRIS, Sund. Pink-billed Lark.

Irises light-hazel; bill light reddish brown; tarsi and feet pale. The two specimens sent, which are probably a pair, were killed at one shot on 14th June, whilst feeding on the open flats amongst the short grass.

COLUMBA PHÆONOTA, Gray. Roussard Pigeon.

Columba trigonigera, Bon.

This species has been exceedingly plentiful this last season;

the following are the measurements of a male—total length 13 inches, bill $1\frac{5}{16}$, tarsus $1\frac{3}{8}$, wing $8\frac{3}{4}$, tail $4\frac{1}{8}$.

[The length of the wing given above by Mr. Ayres agrees with the measurements stated by Mr. Layard in the first edition of his work (p. 257), but is considerably less than that of a male from Damara Land, as noted by Mr. Andersson in the 'Birds of Damara Land,' p. 232.—J. H. G.]

TURTUR SENEGALENSIS (Linn.). Senegal Dove.

A pair of these Doves built a nest in a rose-hedge in June and laid two eggs; these I took, and in a fortnight they had built another nest and laid two more eggs. Their eggs are pure white, beautifully delicate and pretty.

208. *NUMIDA CORONATA* (Gray). Crowned Guinea-fowl.

The specimen sent, a male, weighed 3 lb. 2 oz., and measures as follows—entire length 22 inches, bill $1\frac{1}{4}$, tarsus $3\frac{1}{2}$, wing $10\frac{3}{4}$, tail $7\frac{1}{4}$. Casque pale yellowish ash-colour; bill pale ashy horn-colour, yellowish on the ridge of the upper mandible, and reddish at the gape; cere and bare skin round the nostrils and round the horn crimson; bare skin of the neck and round the eyes bright light blue; wattles blue, with crimson tips; tarsi and feet dusky, almost black.

[I may add to the above description that the upper moiety of the blue circle round the eyes is surrounded by an outer semicircle of crimson, formed by the edge of the crimson skin which surrounds the casque; the shape of the casque agrees with the description given by me in 'The Ibis' for 1868, p. 253.—J. H. G.]

FRANCOLINUS SWAINSONI, Smith. Swainson's Francolin.

The specimen sent was found breeding in the Waterberg district, and was brought to me with two of the eggs, the shells of which were exceedingly thick, approaching those of the Guinea-fowl.

EUPODOTIS CRISTATA (Scop.). Kori Bustard.

Though I often hear of 40-lb. Bustards being shot, I have never seen one any thing like this weight. The specimen sent, though a male, only weighed 16 lb.; it measured as follows—

total length 46 inches, wing 25, tail 14, bill from gape $4\frac{1}{2}$, tarsus 10 ; it was shot 25th October, and had the pouch very apparent, commencing at the base of the tongue, where it was some three inches wide, and extending about five inches down the throat in the form of an isosceles triangle.

[Mr. E. C. Buxton informs me that he shot one of these Bustards, near the Lambomba Mountains, which weighed "nearly 40 lb."—J. H. G.]

209. *EUPODOTIS AFROIDES* (Smith). Black-and-white-winged Bustard.

[I suspect that in this species the male is subject to a seasonal change, and only assumes the dress represented in Sir A. Smith's figure (pl. 19. fig. A) at the approach of the breeding-season. Of two males sent by Mr. Ayres, one shot 31st January is in very nearly full dress, but the other, killed on 4th May, is evidently in change, having a large portion of its plumage like that of the female, and apparently having been killed while in the course of assuming a dress resembling that of the hen bird.—J. H. G.]

CUSORIOUS RUFUS, Gould. Burchell's Courser.

Male. Bill dusky, but the under mandible pale at the base ; irides very dark hazel ; tarsi and feet white.

This species breeds in November on the open flats outside the town of Potchefstroom.

[Mr. Ayres forwards one specimen killed in November, and two killed in June, the former of which was labelled as follows :—"18th November. A small mound of sand and gravel ; eggs placed in a small depression in the centre ; two eggs much incubated.—J. H. G.]

CUSORIOUS BICINCTUS, Temm. Double-collared Courser.

Male. Shot near Potchefstroom 29th March. Bill black ; irides dark hazel ; tarsi and feet white.

This is a much scarcer bird than *C. rufus*.

GLAREOLA NORDMANNI, Fisch. Nordmann's Pratincole.

Bill black, with the base and the edges of the mandibles red ; tarsi and feet dusky ; one specimen sent, shot 1st of October.

210. *ÆGIALITES TRICOLLARIS* (Vieill.). Three-collared Plover.

The specimen sent was shot on 24th March.

BALEARICA REGULORUM, Licht. Southern Crowned Crane.

Immature. This and three other young birds of the same age, and evidently from the same nest, were feeding together in a bit of swampy ground.

[This specimen, which was nearly full-grown, had the irides light ash-colour; the bill black, but with the base of the lower mandible pale; the bare skin between the bill and the eye black, the adjacent space, which is occupied by the wattles in the adult, thickly clothed with short yellowish white down; and the legs and feet ashy black. Its plumage differs from that of the adult bird in the following particulars:—The front part of the head, instead of being black, as in the adult, is a rich fulvous, with a very few small black spots intermixed; the crest, which is about half-grown, the back of the head, and the upper part of the neck and throat are of a similar hue; but the colour, especially on the neck and throat, is paler than on the forehead, and is varied on the sides of the neck by the dark bases of the feathers being apparent; the mantle is slaty black, with narrow tips to the feathers, some of these tips being rufous, others (especially those nearest the wings) being pale brown; the wing-coverts are white, but with most of the feathers variegated by a subterminal slate-coloured mark and a much narrower rufous brown tip, and with the further exception of the coverts of the tertials, in which each feather is wholly banded with alternate transverse bars of slate-colour and rufous; on the bastard wing the feathers are more slate-coloured than in the adult, but have not also, as in the adult, a tinge of rufous; the lower back is of a dark slate-colour intermingled with white, and with rufous tips to those feathers which lie nearest to the thighs and upper tail-coverts, the latter of which are black, tipped with fulvous; the under tail-coverts are composed of long downy feathers of a pale buff-colour, transversely barred with dull black, the abdomen and thighs are pale buff, slightly mingled with black;

the breast and flanks are slaty black, with narrow pale buff edges.

This specimen is now preserved in the British Museum.—J. H. G.]

ARDEA GOLIATH, Temm. Goliath Heron.

This is one of the scarcest Herons here; it is wonderful the size of the fishes these fellows can swallow; the one sent had a 2-lb. carp in him.

+211. ARDEA CINEREA, Linn. Common Heron.

[The specimen sent was shot 7th April; it is evidently a young bird which had very recently left the nest.—J. H. G.]

212. HERODIAS INTERMEDIA (Wagl.). Short-billed Egret.

Female killed 17th June. Total length 28 inches, bill from gape $3\frac{7}{8}$, ditto from forehead 3, wing $12\frac{1}{4}$, tarsus 5, tail $5\frac{1}{2}$.

Irides gamboge-yellow; bill orange-yellow; bare skin adjoining the eyes pale greenish yellow; tarsi and feet bluish.

Female killed 14th September. Total length 27 inches, bill from gape $3\frac{1}{2}$, ditto from forehead $2\frac{7}{8}$, wing $11\frac{3}{4}$, tarsus $4\frac{1}{2}$, tail $5\frac{1}{2}$.

Irides tawny yellow; bill chrome yellow, darker at the base; bare skin adjoining the eyes bright verdigris green; shanks chrome yellow; tarsi dusky, almost black, except the upper portion, which was chrome yellow.

[I imagine that this is the species included in Mr. Barratt's list in 'The Ibis' for 1876, p. 210, under the name of *Ardea egretta*, a designation to which I believe it is not correctly entitled.—J. H. G.]

HERODIAS GARZETTA (Linn). Little Egret.

Shot 18th January, not in nuptial dress; irides pale yellow; bill dusky, but the under mandible pinkish at the base; shanks and tarsi dusky black; feet pale yellowish green.

ARDEOLA COMATA (Pall). Squacco Heron.

Male, killed 15th January, not in nuptial dress; irides pale yellow, orange on the outer edge; bare skin between the eye and the bill, and also the base of the bill, greenish, upper mandible dusky, lower mandible and commissure yellow; bill

from gape $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches, ditto from forehead $2\frac{5}{16}$, wing $8\frac{3}{4}$, tail $3\frac{1}{8}$, tarsus $2\frac{7}{8}$.

[On comparing the above measurements with a male and female previously sent from Transvaal, I find that the dimensions of the male of this pair agree almost exactly with the above, but the female is decidedly smaller, measuring as follows—bill from forehead $2\frac{7}{16}$ inches, wing $7\frac{7}{8}$, tarsus 2*.

As this is the only species of this restricted group which I have seen from Transvaal, I suspect that it may be the same as that quoted in Mr. Barratt's list as "*Ardea leucoptera*," vide Ibis, 1876, p. 210†.—J. H. G.]

+213. NUMENIUS ARQUATUS (Linn.). Common Curlew.

Female shot 9th October; total length 25 inches, bill from forehead $6\frac{5}{8}$, wing $12\frac{1}{4}$, tarsus 4.

This is a very scarce bird indeed in these parts; two specimens were seen last year, of which this is one; I did not hear either of them utter the usual cry of the Curlew; both were silent.

+214. NUMENIUS PHÆOPUS (Linn.). Common Whimbrel.

I shot a Whimbrel during the month of November, the only one I have ever seen.

[This identification rests on Mr. Ayres's authority, the specimen not having been forwarded.—J. H. G.]

+PHILOMACHUS PUGNAX (Linn.). Ruff.

The male sent was shot from a flock on 24th August; it is the most nearly in full plumage of any specimen that I have seen.

[This example retains the remains of the two occipital tufts and of the portion of the ruff between them; the remaining tuft-plumes are about three quarters of an inch in length, the intervening feathers being much shorter; it also retains con-

* A similar disparity in the size of the sexes has been noticed in an allied Indian species, *Ardeola grayi*, Sykes, vide 'Stray Feathers,' vol. iv. p. 350.

† Mr. Barratt also includes in his list "*Ardetta minuta*," which I venture to think may be an error, as I have never seen this species from South Africa, but only the nearly allied but smaller species, *A. podiceps*, Bon. (conf. Ibis, 1873, p. 257).—J. H. G.

siderable remains of nuptial dress, both on the mantle and on the under surface. Mr. Ayres sends, as well, a female in winter dress, shot 7th January.—J. H. G.]

TOTANUS GLAREOLA (Linn.). Wood-Sandpiper.

Found on the Snipe-ground.

[Mr. Ayres forwards two females—one shot 25th February, which has partly assumed the nuptial dress, the other, killed 25th March, which has fully attained it.—J. H. G.]

215. RHYNCHÆA CAPENSIS (Linn.). African Painted Snipe.

Of sixty Snipe shot by some friends of mine, only two were of this species, two *Gallinago major*, and the remainder *G. æquatorialis*.

GALLINAGO MAJOR (Gmel.). Solitary Snipe.

Of the three specimens sent, a male and female were shot on 26th March, and a female on 20th April.

RALLUS CÆRULESCENS, Gmel. Caffre Rail.

Male, shot 4th June. Irides blood-red; bill the same, but dusky along the ridge; tarsi and feet dull brownish red, tinged with dusky.

Female, shot 17th May. Irides reddish hazel; bill scarlet, but dusky on the ridge; tarsi dull brick-red, tinged with dusky.

This is the commonest Rail we have, and a most noisy little fellow, making wonderfully loud and startling cries for his size; the stomach of one sent contained legs of a crab.

+ 216. CREX PRATENSIS (Bechst.). Corn-Crake.

This species is very scarce here; the specimen sent was shot on 10th March.

PORZANA PYGMÆA, Naum. Baillon's Crake.

Male, shot 20th April, in immature plumage on the throat and breast. Irides tawny; bill greenish, but dusky on the ridge; tarsi and feet pale dusky greenish.

Female, shot 22nd January, in adult dress. Irides reddish orange; bill grass-green, but dusky on the ridge; tarsi and feet pale greenish.

These Crakes are occasionally to be got whilst Snipe-shooting.

217. PORZANA EGREGIA, Pet. Greater African Crake.

Male, shot 14th May. Irides orange, eyelids bright red; bill pale bluish horn-colour, dusky on the ridge, and pale at the base of the under mandible; tarsi and feet dusky pale; total length $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches, bill 1, tarsus 1, wing $4\frac{3}{4}$, tail $1\frac{3}{4}$.

The only specimen I have seen; I shot it whilst trying for Snipe in the marsh close by Potchefstroom; it must be exceedingly rare here.

[This scarce Crake is described in Finsch and Hartlaub's 'Vögel Ost-Afrika's,' p. 778, where the details of its synonymy will be found *in extenso*.—J. H. G.]

218. COTURNICOPS AYRESI, n. sp. Ayres' Crake. (Plate VII.)

This pretty little fellow we call the White-winged Rail, from the white patch on the wing, which is very conspicuous when it is flushed and making away. I have only noticed this species here the last two seasons; it is very scarce; the two sent are the only specimens I have obtained, though I have seen one or two others.

The bird shot the 4th October contained water-insects in its stomach.

Female (apparently adult) shot 24th November. Total length $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches, bill $\frac{9}{16}$, tarsus $1\frac{5}{16}$, wing 3, tail $1\frac{3}{4}$; irides ashy hazel; bill dusky, under mandible pale; tarsi and feet dusky.

Female (apparently immature) shot 4th October. Total length $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches, bill $\frac{1}{2}$, tarsus 1, wing 3, tail $1\frac{1}{2}$; bill pale dusky, darkest on the ridge; tarsi and feet dusky pink.

[On receiving the two Crakes above mentioned I was unable to refer them to any species with which I was acquainted, and I therefore sought the kind assistance of Mr. Salvin, who confirmed me in the belief that they belong to a species hitherto undescribed, which I propose should bear the name of my valued correspondent Mr. Thomas Ayres, to whose researches we are indebted for this interesting acquisition.

Mr. Salvin has also been so good as to point out to me that

the present species forms a third in the restricted subgenus *Coturnicops*, the two previously known being the North-American *C. noveboracensis* (Gmel.), and the Asiatic *C. exquiusita*, Swinhoe, figured in 'The Ibis' for 1875, pl. iii., both of which are, like their southern congener, remarkable for the conspicuously white secondary feathers of the wing.

The two specimens are both marked by Mr. Ayres as females, the one being apparently adult, and the other immature; the latter I have placed in the British Museum, retaining the former in my own collection.

Both examples are represented in the annexed plate, which will enable them to be readily recognized; but I may add the following description of their coloration and marking:—

Female adult. Crown of head and back of neck blackish brown, interspersed with dark rufous-brown spots, which are more numerous on the neck than on the head; sides of head mottled with pale and dark brown, the former slightly preponderating; sides of neck rich rufous brown, with narrow blackish-brown tips to the feathers; back black, with narrow white edgings to the sides of the feathers, beyond which, in some of the feathers, an outer edging of olive-brown is perceptible; similar but more conspicuous brown edgings occur on the feathers of the greater and median wing-coverts, which, with this exception, are blackish brown, as are also the least coverts, all the coverts being more or less spotted with white; the primaries dull brown, the fifth and subsequent ones being very slightly tipped with white; all the secondaries pure white, except a brown shaft-mark, slightly spreading on to the webs at the base and tip, and excepting also the last feather, which is slate-coloured, mottled with white; upper tail-coverts transversely marked with alternate bars of dark rufous and blackish brown, the latter being the broader; chin white, slightly tinged with rufous; and the throat the same, but with the feathers very narrowly edged with blackish brown; breast rufous brown, but paler than the sides of the neck; flanks and abdomen mingled black and white, the black predominating on the flanks, the white on the abdomen; tibiae resembling on the sides the coloration of the flanks, and on

the front that of the abdomen ; under tail-coverts transversely and alternately barred with pale rufous and black ; wing-linings white, slightly mottled about the edges of the wing with blackish brown ; axillaries white, mingled with slaty brown.

The immature female resembles the above, but shows more of the olive-brown edgings to the feathers of the mantle, and wants the rufous tint on the breast and sides of the neck, the former being a dirty white, the latter two shades of brown, the centres of the feathers being darker than the edges.—J. H. G.]

219. *ALECTHELIA DIMIDIATA* (Smith). South-African Rufous-chested Crake.

Alecthelia ruficollis, Gray.

This species inhabits the Snipe-grounds, but is scarce and difficult to flush.

[In 'The Ibis' for 1859, p. 249, and for 1868, p. 261, I incorrectly applied to this species the English name of "Jardine's Crake," which properly belongs to its smaller congener, *A. jardinei* (Smith).—J. H. G.]

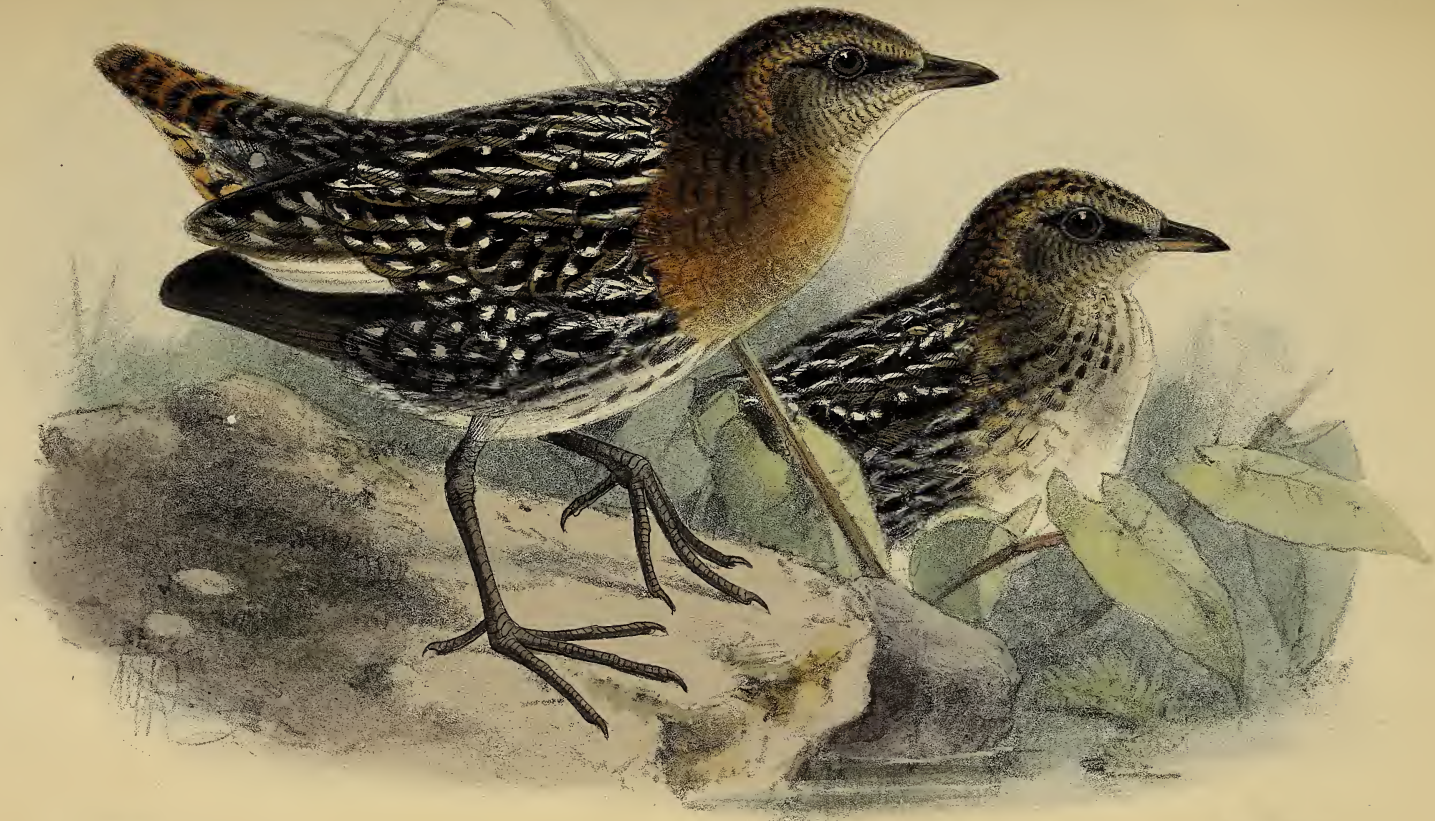
220. *NETTAPUS MADAGASCARIENSIS* (Gmel.). Madagascar Dwarf-Goose.

A pair of these little Geese were shot in April on the Vaal river, fourteen miles from Potchefstroom, and are in the possession of Dr. Exton of Bloemfontein.

221. *GRACULUS AFRICANUS*, Gray. Long-tailed African Cormorant.

Male in winter plumage, shot near Potchefstroom 17th May. Irides light ashy brown ; bill pale, but dusky on the ridge ; tarsi and feet black.

[I take this opportunity of correcting a clerical error which occurred in 'The Ibis' for 1876 at p. 430. For "*Enneoctonus collaris*" read *E. collurio*.—J. H. G.]



J.G.Keulemans lith.

COTURNICOPS AYRESI

M & N. Hanhart imp.